

Law Offices

June 22, 2007

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Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals, TW-A325
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice – Rural Health Care Support Mechanism,
WC Docket No. 02-60.

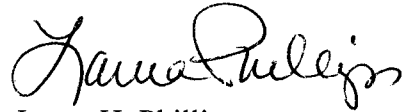
Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 21, 2007, Art Spies of the Iowa Hospital Association, Joe LeValley of Mercy Medical Center—Des Moines, David Hickman of Mercy Health Network, Scott Curtis of Kossuth Regional Health Center, and David Swanson and Dave Lingren of the Iowa Communications Network, collectively referred to as the “Iowa delegation,” and Laura Phillips and Robert Waters of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, met separately with Scott Bergman, Legal Advisor for Wireline Issues for Commissioner Adelstein; Ian Dillner, Legal Advisor for Wireline Issues for Chairman Martin, and Scott Deutchman, Competition and Universal Service Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps, to discuss the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program application sponsored by the Iowa Hospital Association that is a subject of *Rural Health Care Pilot Program Order* in the above-referenced docket.

The Iowa delegation presented information about the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program application to the FCC’s Rural Health Care Pilot Program, as well as the attached document, highlighting the scope of the Iowa Communications Network and how it is proposed to be used by the Iowa Hospital Association and its members as a transparent, neutral backbone fiber network to advance and promote the benefits of telemedicine to Iowans under the FCC’s Rural Healthcare Pilot Program.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, this letter and attachment are being submitted for inclusion in the referenced dockets.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" and last name "Phillips" clearly distinguishable.

Laura H. Phillips

cc: Scott Bergman
Ian Dillner
Scott Deuchman

Attachment



The IRHTP (Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program) consortium is comprised of (1) Nebraska, (2) South Dakota, and (97) Iowa hospitals with a common goal to provide advanced healthcare without geographic restrictions. The consortium includes (87) rural and (13) urban hospitals from (11) different health systems. The program will result in the **largest, most advanced and cost effective** telemedicine network in the upper midwest.

**One goal
100 hospitals
1,000 megabits each
Enhanced healthcare for Iowans**

Project Features

- Provides a last mile fiber connection to each rural and urban hospital
- Utilizes current fiber backbone and wavelengths to construct a dedicated and resilient 10 gigabit IP/MPLS backbone
- Utilizes current resilient gigabit Internet and Internet2 connections
- Meets healthcare providers' legacy needs (H.320), current needs (Ethernet 10/100/1,000) and future needs (wavelength services)
- Provides services to 91% of all Iowa rural hospitals
- Leverages public/private partnership with an established carrier
- Continues planning and collaborative implementation with Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division



Budget Overview

The following overall project estimate maximizes financial options with each member's connection.*

\$ 7,704,050	Last mile fiber connecting each hospital
\$ 1,779,072	Access electronics
\$ 2,221,510	Core network electronics
\$11,704,632	Total Overall Cost

Benefits

Upon completion each hospital will have high speed access to:

- Other consortium hospitals
- On-net healthcare groups (e.g. radiology, pathology, specialty surgical consultations)
- Internet and Internet2
- Voice and web conferencing services
- Video conferencing services (ISDN [H.320], IP [H.323], ICN [MPEG-2])
- Wavelength services for PACS backup using the latest networking technology
- Higher education teaching and research facilities

The vision is to allow hospitals, regardless of size, location or affiliation, to access the most advanced, most cost effective means of providing healthcare without geographic limitations. For more information, contact Art Spies (515) 283-9314.

*See pages 32-34 of the grant proposal for more information.

